

The successful completion of the April 10, 2008 Constituent Assembly (CA) election was a significant step towards strengthening democracy in Nepal. The CA is now charged with serving as the interim Parliament and drafting a new constitution that respects the basic rights of all citizens.



A coalition government has been formed that, together with the CA, will lead the formation of a representative federal government.

Nepal's principal political challenges are to consolidate the current peace process; draft a new, more inclusive constitution; and build a functioning government with sufficiently broad legitimacy and authority to uphold the rule of law and carry out national development in the years ahead. It must accomplish all of this in an environment of political and social divisions; high and often-unrealistic expectations on the part of the public; fragile and politicized state institutions and civil society; severely limited resources; and unrest and physical insecurity.

USAID/Nepal's Democracy and Governance programs support the re-establishment of representative democracy and restoration of the public's faith in political institutions. Programs assist national institutions and key political parties to establish an inclusive competitive democracy by strengthening organizational structures and providing leadership training to officials, youth and women. Programs encourage dialogue on the peace process; promote respect for rule of law and human rights; and educate citizens on their rights and responsibilities.

## KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS



**ELECTORAL AND POLITICAL PARTICIPATION** - A panel discussion on the role of women in politics and governance. The panelists discussed the challenges women face in entering politics and the importance of women's participation in decision-making. The discussion was moderated by a woman in a pink shawl. The panelists included a woman in a purple shawl, a woman in a blue shawl, and a woman in a green shawl. The discussion was held in a room with a banner in the background that reads 'समा प्रकृत्यामा महिला सहभागी' (Women's participation in social development).